



About MSAG

**Mission:**

The Multicultural Study Abroad Group (MSAG) is made up of University of Minnesota professionals who actively support the University's goal of increasing the numbers of students of color who study abroad by working to overcome barriers, promoting the benefits of study abroad and providing resources that address the needs of students of color.

**History:**

At the September 2001 retreat for the Freshman/Sophomore advising group, interest emerged regarding the participation of students of color in study abroad programs. The Multicultural Study Abroad Group (MSAG), with representatives from all four campuses, was formed to explore this aspect of study abroad. The group has identified and discussed the following categories of issues and concerns regarding students of color participation in study abroad.

- financial concerns
- family considerations
- fear
- cultural barriers and concerns
- academic concerns
- marketing of programs/ recruitment of students of color



Papers and Publications

"Students of Color and Study Abroad", a paper (pdf) presented at the University of Minnesota Curriculum Integration conference, April 2004.

Presentation given to the [National Conference on Race & Ethnicity \(NCORE\)](#), June 2005

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[Asian American Students: Study Abroad Participation, Perspectives and Experiences](#)

Thuy M. Doan, MA, Educational Policy and Administration, [Comparative and International](#)



Accomplishments

[Multicultural students study abroad brochure](#) (pdf) Developed to address the concerns of multicultural students, this brochure attempts to deal directly and honestly with the real challenges that multicultural students may face while studying abroad, and also offers students some considerations that may help multicultural students find a study abroad program that fits well for them. [Brochure proposal and outline](#) (pdf) [Study abroad with a focus on multicultural issues](#) (pdf) A student advising resource offering guidance in choosing programs that address multicultural issues as a focus of academic inquiry.

[Training Module](#) (pdf)

An outline of the training module created by the Multicultural Study Abroad Group to train academic advisers and faculty regarding students of color and study abroad. The module can also be used in training study abroad staff on multicultural affairs and advising issues.

[Learning abroad for student parents](#) (pdf)

Developed in partnership with the University's Student Parent HELP Center, this piece offers specific guidance to students who are parents regarding options for fitting study abroad into their busy lives.

[Parent web pages](#)

Address parent issues and study abroad. Parental concern has been identified as a major issues preventing more multicultural students from studying abroad. It is hoped that this set of web pages can address parental concerns and give students some help in answering tough parental questions.

[MSAG Bibliography](#)

In 2001-'02 MSAG and the Study Abroad Curriculum Integration Team created an extensive bibliography on multicultural students and study abroad.

Student Comments

*...The different pyramids gave me a sense of history. I am both Native and Mexican, and I felt connected to this place...I thought to myself, 'my people have been here.' I have a deep appreciation for being here.* – Graciela

*"Study abroad helped me define who I am and appreciate what I have... Being able to step outside of all I've ever known was so healthy that I feel like I understand myself and my culture much better."* – Mariana

*"You think that if you go, you're putting your life on hold... Everybody there has the same fears, so once you talk with them, you build a relationship that almost substitutes for your support at home."* – Bob

*"There aren't many Asian students in Mexico...It is great because even as I learned so much about Mexico..., I am much more in touch with my Hmong culture."* – Mai



MSAG Brochure

For more information, contact the study abroad office on your campus:

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240 Student Center  
2900 University Avenue  
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[www.duluth.edu/ieo](http://www.duluth.edu/ieo)

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[UMAbroad@umt.umn.edu](mailto:UMAbroad@umt.umn.edu)  
[www.UMAbroad.umn.edu](http://www.UMAbroad.umn.edu)



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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Multicultural Students Study Abroad**

**Multicultural Students**

Crookston  
Duluth  
Morris  
Twin Cities

Honors

The University of Minnesota's MSAG was named first recipient of the Diversity Network's Best Practices Series. The best practice series highlights the good work being done by higher education institutions and other organizations to recruit, advise and retain underrepresented students for international education opportunities. Each month, the Diversity Network will evaluate and then showcase the strategies implemented by institutions and organizations to diversify global education.

Every institution and organization is unique. The goal of the Best Practices Series is not to give a one size fits all solution to diversifying global education. However the goal of the Best Practices Series is to provide members with a wide array of strategies that have been implemented at a diverse group of institutions. By sharing these strategies we aim to help institutions create customized plans of action for recruiting, advising and retaining underrepresented students at their institutions for international education opportunities.



**Multicultural Students Study Abroad**

*"I found myself able to swap stories about culture and customs and learn a great deal in the process, instead of fighting the already set stereotypes about American students. I dealt with issues of identity and purpose as all students abroad do, but my experience was so rich. It proved to me that diversity should indeed be celebrated."*  
- Terri

**EXPAND YOUR WORLD  
EXPLORE YOUR IDENTITY**

Our identities are formed by our *biology*, our *history*, and our *culture*. *Study abroad* helps you examine your own identity by allowing you to view yourself through the mirror of other cultures.

Each location has unique historical circumstances that impact *interactions* between cultural groups. Many multicultural students find value in the experience of exploring their *identity* by interacting within a new historical and cultural *context*.

Now, as a student at the University of Minnesota, you have the time and *support* you need to fit this unique, *rewarding* experience into your life.

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